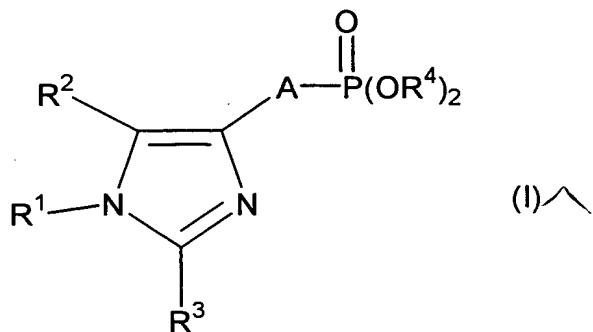


ABSTRACT

The invention provides an improvement in the production of imidazole derivatives including histamine H₃ agonist immepip and histamine H₃ antagonist VUF4929. Desired imidazole derivatives can be easily obtained in high yield by using novel intermediates represented by the general formula (I):



10 wherein R¹ is an amino-protecting group; R² and R³ are each independently hydrogen, lower alkyl, or hydroxy-(lower alkyl); R⁴ is lower alkyl, halogenated lower alkyl, or substituted or unsubstituted phenyl; and A is C₁₋₃ alkylene.